

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

**ECOLOGICAL SITE DESCRIPTION**

**ECOLOGICAL SITE CHARACTERISTICS**

Site Type: Forest  
Site ID: F039XC003NM  
Site Name: *Pseudotsuga menziesii* – *Populus tremuloides*  
Major Land Resource Area and Common Resource Area MLRA 39 CRA NM3  
Precipitation or Climate Zone: Southcentral New Mexico Mountains 16 – 30"  
Phase: \_\_\_\_\_

**ORIGINAL SITE DESCRIPTION APPROVAL:**

Site Date: August 6, 2002  
Site Author: Steve Lacy  
Site Approval: \_\_\_\_\_  
Approval Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**REVISIONS:**

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Revisor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Revision \_\_\_\_\_  
Approval: \_\_\_\_\_  
Approval Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Revision Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**PHYSIOGRAPHIC FEATURES**

**Narrative:**

The mixed conifer community is found above 8,000 feet and prefers a north facing aspect. This forest type is found in subregion area NM – 3 on the Lincoln National Forest.

The Sacramento Mountains are characterized by sloping mountains that exceed 12,000 feet on Sierra Blanca.

**LAND FORM:**

1. mountain slopes  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**ASPECT:**

1. north facing at lower elevations  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_



Elevation (feet)	Minimum 8,000	Maximum 12,000
Slope (percent)		
Water Table Depth (inches)		
Flooding:	Minimum	Maximum
Frequency		
Duration		
Ponding:	Minimum	Maximum
Depth (inches)		
Frequency		
Duration		

Runoff Class:

## CLIMATIC FEATURES

Narrative:

This area of mountains and valleys receives the majority of its annual moisture during the summer monsoon season. Additional moisture is received during winter snow events.

Frost-free period (days):	Minimum 80	Maximum 145
Freeze-free period (days):		
Mean annual precipitation (inches):	16"	30"

**Monthly moisture (inches) and temperature (°F) distribution:**

	Avg. Precip. In.	Avg. Snowfall Total	Temp. Min.	Temp. Max.
January	1.15	9.4	17.8	49.2
February	1.11	7.8	19.4	51.9
March	1.17	6.9	23.1	57.1
April	0.69	2.3	28.2	65.2
May	0.91	0.1	34.6	73.7
June	2.05	-	42.2	81.8
July	3.99	-	48.0	81.3
August	4.19	-	47.3	79.4
September	2.48	-	41.0	75.3
October	1.56	1.4	31.2	66.7
November	0.83	3.3	22.5	57.1
December	1.61	8.8	18.2	50.5

**Climate Stations:**

			Lat	Long	Period		
Station ID	Ruidosa 2 NNE	Location	3322	10540	From:	1946	To: 2000
Station ID		Location			From:		To:
Station ID		Location			From:		To:
Station ID		Location			From:		To:
Station ID		Location			From:		To:

**INFLUENCING WATER FEATURES****Narrative:**

Wetland description:

System	Subsystem	Class

If Riverine Wetland System enter Rosgen Stream Type:

## REPRESENTATIVE SOIL FEATURES

Narrative:

Parent Material Kind: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Material Origin: \_\_\_\_\_

Surface Texture:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Surface Texture Modifier:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Subsurface Texture Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Surface Fragments  $\leq 3''$  (% Cover): \_\_\_\_\_

Surface Fragments  $> 3''$  (% Cover): \_\_\_\_\_

Subsurface Fragments  $\leq 3''$  (%Volume): \_\_\_\_\_

Subsurface Fragments  $\geq 3''$  (%Volume): \_\_\_\_\_

Drainage Class:

Permeability Class:

Depth (inches):

Electrical Conductivity (mmhos/cm):

Sodium Absorption Ratio:

Soil Reaction (1:1 Water):

Soil Reaction (0.1M CaCl<sub>2</sub>):

Available Water Capacity (inches):

Calcium Carbonate Equivalent (percent):

Minimum

Maximum

\_\_\_\_\_

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### **Soil survey associations:**

This ecological site is associated with the map units and soil components in the following soil surveys. Future updates to this soil survey may affect these associations. For up-to-date associations between soil components and this ecological site, refer to NASIS. Associations between ecological sites and soil components are maintained in NASIS via the ecological site ID.

#### MAP UNIT NAME

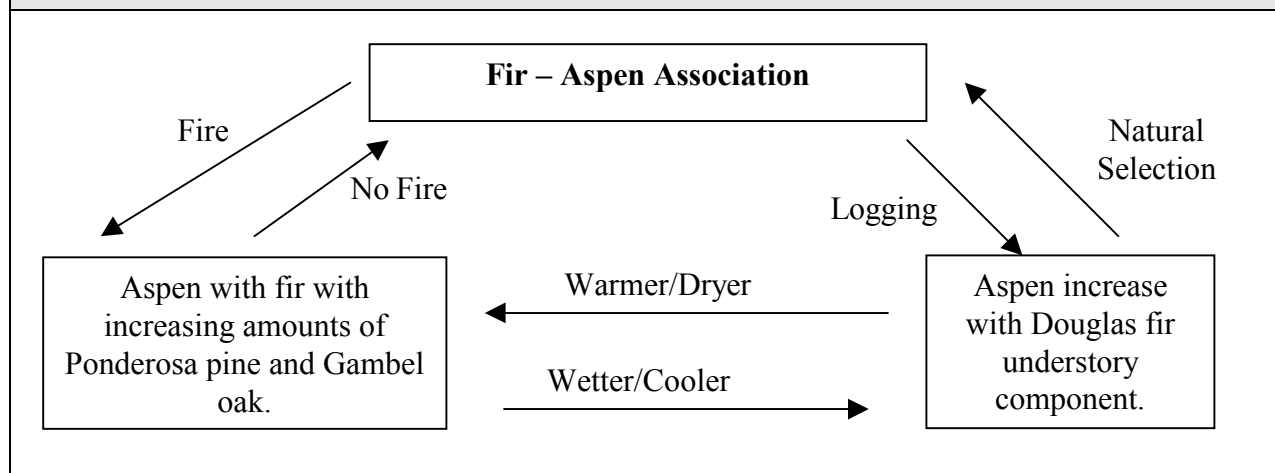
	<u>Map unit</u>	
<u>Soil survey</u>	<u>symbol</u>	<u>Soil components</u>

### **PLANT COMMUNITIES**

#### Ecological Dynamics of the Site:

The mixed conifer community occupies the mountain slopes of the Sacramento Mountains above 8,000 feet. Increased amounts of available moisture on north facing slopes leads to denser stands of Douglas fir and aspen. Ponderosa pine is found on sunnier and drier aspects.

#### Plant Communities and Transitional Pathways (diagram)



Interpretive Plant Community: Naturalized Plant Community

**Ground Cover and Structure:**

Cover Type	Percent Ground Cover by Height Class (feet)								
	<.5	.5-1	>1-2	>2-4.5	>4.5-13	>13-40	>40-80	>80-120	>120
Grass/Grass Like									
Forb									
Shrub/Vine									
Tree									
Lichen									
Moss									
Litter									
Course Fragment									
Bare Ground									

**Forest Overstory Composition:**

The typical forest overstory composition of the historic climax community.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Percent Composition (percent by frequency)
Douglas fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	
Quaking aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	
Engelmann spruce	<i>Picea engelmannii</i>	
Ponderosa pine	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	
White fir	<i>Abies concolor</i>	
Total		

**Forest Understory Composition:**

The typical annual production of understory species to a height of 4.5 feet (excluding boles of trees) under low, high, and representative canopy covers.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Annual Production Per Acre Percent and Pounds (air-dry weight)					
		Canopy Cover Percent					
		80		90		100	
		%	lbs	%	lbs	%	lbs
New Mexico locust	<i>Robinia neomexicana</i>						
Gambel oak	<i>Quercus gambelii</i>						
Total Annual Production							

**Typical Climax Community:**

Dense stands of Douglas fir and Quaking aspen on north facing slopes. Thinner stands with some Ponderosa pine on other aspects.

**Plant Community: (as it exists today)**

Douglas fir and quaking aspen becoming more prevalent with increasing elevation. Ponderosa pine may be dominant on lower, warmer elevations and aspects.

**Ground Cover and Structure:**

Cover Type	Percent Ground Cover by Height Class (feet)								
	<.5	.5-1	>1-2	>2-4.5	>4.5-13	>13-40	>40-80	>80-120	>120
Grass/Grass Like									
Forb									
Shrub/Vine									
Tree									
Lichen									
Moss									
Litter									
Course Fragment									
Bare Ground									



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Douglas fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	
Quaking aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	
Ponderosa pine	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	
Total		

**Forest Understory Composition:**

The typical annual production of understory species to a height of 4.5 feet (excluding boles of trees) under low, high, and representative canopy covers.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Annual Production Per Acre Percent and Pounds (air-dry weight)					
		Canopy Cover Percent					
		75		85		95	
		%	lbs	%	lbs	%	lbs
Gambel oak	<i>Quercus gambelii</i>						
New Mexico locust	<i>Robinia neomexicana</i>						
Total Annual Production							

**Plant Community: (as it exists today)**

## ECOLOGICAL SITE INTERPRETATIONS

### Forest Site Productivity

Common Name	Scientific Name	Annual Productivity (per acre per year)						
		Site Index		Cubic Feet (CMAI)		Other Units		
		Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Unit
Douglas fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>							
Ponderosa pine	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>							

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Map Unit Name

Soil Survey

Map Unit Symbol

Soil Components

## ECOLOGICAL SITE INTERPRETATIONS

### **Animal Community:**

Mature forest species include black bear, elk, mule deer, grouse, and squirrels.

### Plant Preference by Animal Kind:

Animal Kind: \_\_\_\_\_

Animal Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Common Name	Scientific Name	Plant Part	Forage Preferences											
			J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Animal Kind: \_\_\_\_\_

Animal Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Common Name	Scientific Name	Plant Part	Forage Preferences											
			J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

### Hydrology Functions:

Heavy canopy cover and thick duff layers act to reduce surface impact of rainfall and helps to increase storage and infiltration of moisture. North facing aspects retain snowpack for longer periods in the spring.

**Recreational Uses:**

1. Camping
2. Skiing
3. Hiking
4. Hunting

**Wood Products:**

Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir could produce saw logs.

**Other Products:****Other Information:****Supporting Information**Associated Sites:Site NameSite IDSite NarrativeSimilar Sites:Site NameSite IDSite Narrative

**Inventory Data References (narrative):**

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Inventory Data References:

<u>Data Source</u>	<u>Number of Records</u>	<u>Sample Period</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>County</u>
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State Correlation:

This site has been correlated with the following sites: \_\_\_\_\_

Type Locality:

State:	New Mexico
County:	Lincoln
Latitude:	UTM S 0429162 3695878
Longitude:	
Township:	Elev. 9914
Range:	
Section:	

Is the type locality sensitive? Yes ☐ No ☐

General Legal Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Other Established Classifications:

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Other References:

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